

An
Inaugural Dissertation

on
The Treatment of Mania & Puer

by
The Spider's Web

by
Richardson of Delaware.

Dated March 24th. 1826

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On
Mania a Potu

Healed by
Spiders Web

Diseases in which the brain becomes a suffering part, and as a consequence, its appendages the nervous system, form a class more ^{mortal} and untreatable, than any other division of Medicine. The various fevers of the typhoid type, apoplexy, epilepsy, &c. occupy a most disproportionate part of the bills of mortality, and to treat them with any success, the physician must call into action his utmost judgment and attention.

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Mania à potu is a species of this class, which is very frequent in this country. It is that disease which so often ends the course of the habitual drunkard, and those are the persons most obnoxious to the complaint. In its nature it is very unmanageable, and the situation of the patient is such, as a medical man would pronounce extremely unfavourable for the operation of remedial articles: the combination of mental hallucinations springing from a morbid condition of the brain, with an extreme irritability of the nervous system, accompanied by an invincible vigilance, weakness & quickness of the pulse, and debility of the stomach, being the pathognomonic distinguishing of the disease, very similar in the description to that of the last stages of other disorders.

The muscular power of the patient most commonly, however, being comparatively little reduced, gives a basis for the hope, that he is not in reality so low as he appears; yet now and then we find the debility so great, as to prevent rising from the bed, and in such a case the most pressing

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The aim of all treatment in this complaint, is to overcome the morbid vigilance, which, if it does not cause many of the distressing symptoms, at least so encourages them, as to render them invincible, until it be removed. Sleep indeed in this disease is a sine quâ non, and the difficulty with which it is induced, is the most remarkable circumstance attending it.

There are three methods of treating mania à pota in use at the present time, each of which has numerous votaries, but perhaps the Stimulant plan; or the 1st of our division is the most followed, and attended in the end with the least dubious success. Whatever mode, however, may be employed, it is generally but as a preparatory measure for the administration of opium, and if the other remedies only prepare the system for the full action of this, the end desired is obtained, for on its full effect we may place the most certain expectations of relief.

The stimulant plan of treatment which I have

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mentioned, consists in the administration of the patient's accustomed draught, or of some of the more volatile stimulants as the carb. Ammonia or Ether. The mere stimulus of the alcoholic liquors often proves sufficient to restore the patient, particularly if the disease be not far advanced, or if it originate entirely from the cessation of drinking in the habitual drunkard; but sometimes the stomach will refuse the remedy by itself, and then a few drops of Laudanum may be mixed with the spirits, which combination the stomach perhaps will bear. The application of cold water to the head is also often found beneficial, particularly if the patient be in a recumbent situation where he may sleep. In one case I placed the patient's head under the spout of a pump, and caused a stream of water to fall on it for 10 or 12 minutes, and then wiping it dry, I made him lie down in bed, & in a few minutes I had the pleasure to see him fall into a sound sleep from which he awoke, relieved. In this case, it appears to me, the cold operated in the same manner as a dose of Opium - by its sedative influence.

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The second method of treating mania à jolt, is by emetics. This practice originated with Dr. Velpeau of the city of Philadelphia, who relates many cases successfully treated in this manner in one of the numbers of the Medical Recorder. I never saw a case managed in this way, and I now can form no positive conclusion respecting it; but that it is successful in certain peculiar circumstances, we have every reason to believe.

Dr. Chapman, whose opinion on any subject connected with medicine is eminent authority, delivered himself to this amount in his Clinical Lecture at the Arms house on the 19th November — "After the action of an emetic sleep is often induced, or at least the sensibility of the system to the impression of remedial articles is revived, so that sleep may be procured by a quantity of opium comparatively small, with what I would have required in the first state of bicanted desensibility. Emetics, however are contra-indicated in the greatest number of cases. There must be present a certain firmness of constitution, before

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They should be inscribed; for if they be administered to a patient at such solicitude they would produce an estimation upon which the doctor already on the course of thinking would never recollect."

This affection is healed, hardly by debilitations,
but recommended by Bradish, in one division of his
work on Syphilis puer. "The writer's practice is based
on Dr. J. D. Bradish's treatment of the early stage of the disease.
A doctor is to draw out his fingers,
and a man - they extract out; and a woman
will be fit to be married in the former stage, if you
have no disease as last stage, and no venereal stage." It
very confined, and has a violent embolism, the general condition
of the body, attack will be to the right side, and the
right side will be affected, there like a sigmoid embolism
or a fixed in the body, the tongue will get a dry
or bad taste which often leads to consumption of the
under hand. "It may go on, and it may not have
not been long, or again it is considered a malignant tumor.

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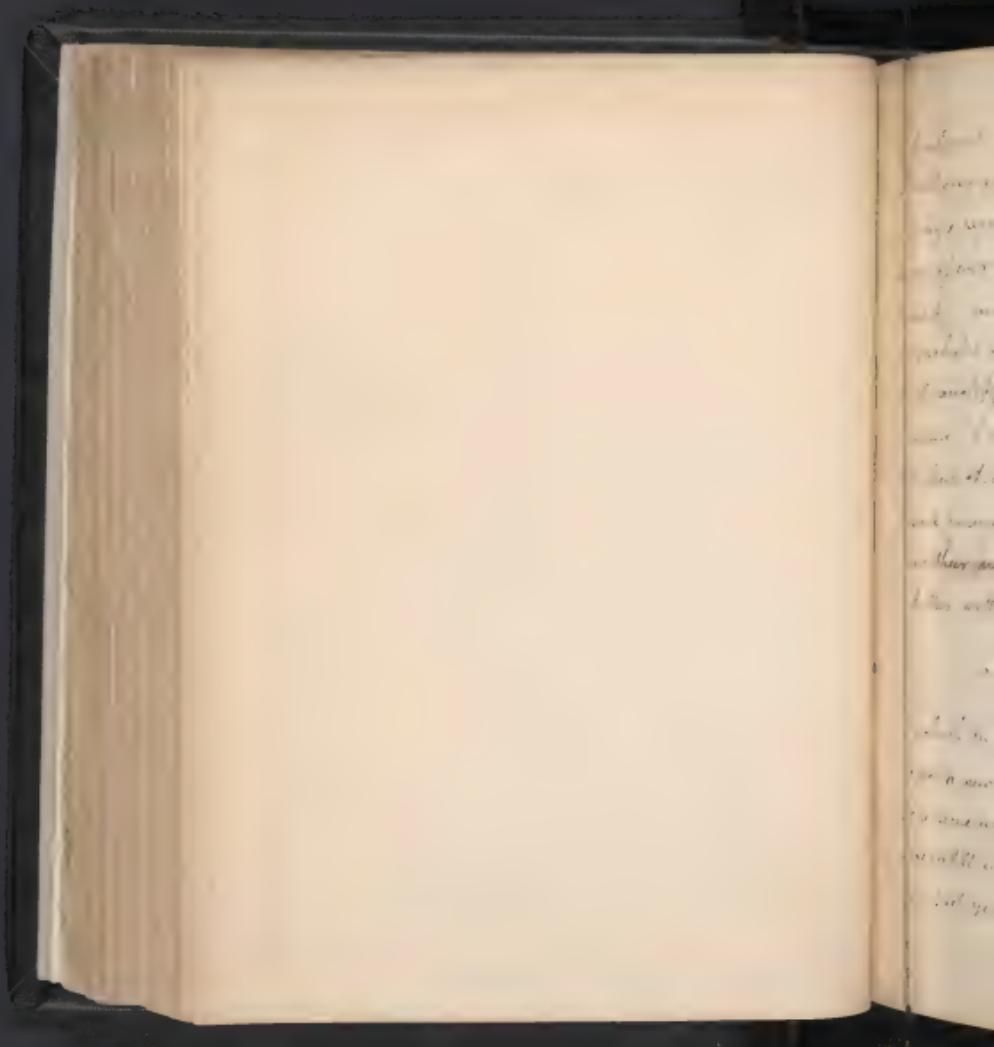
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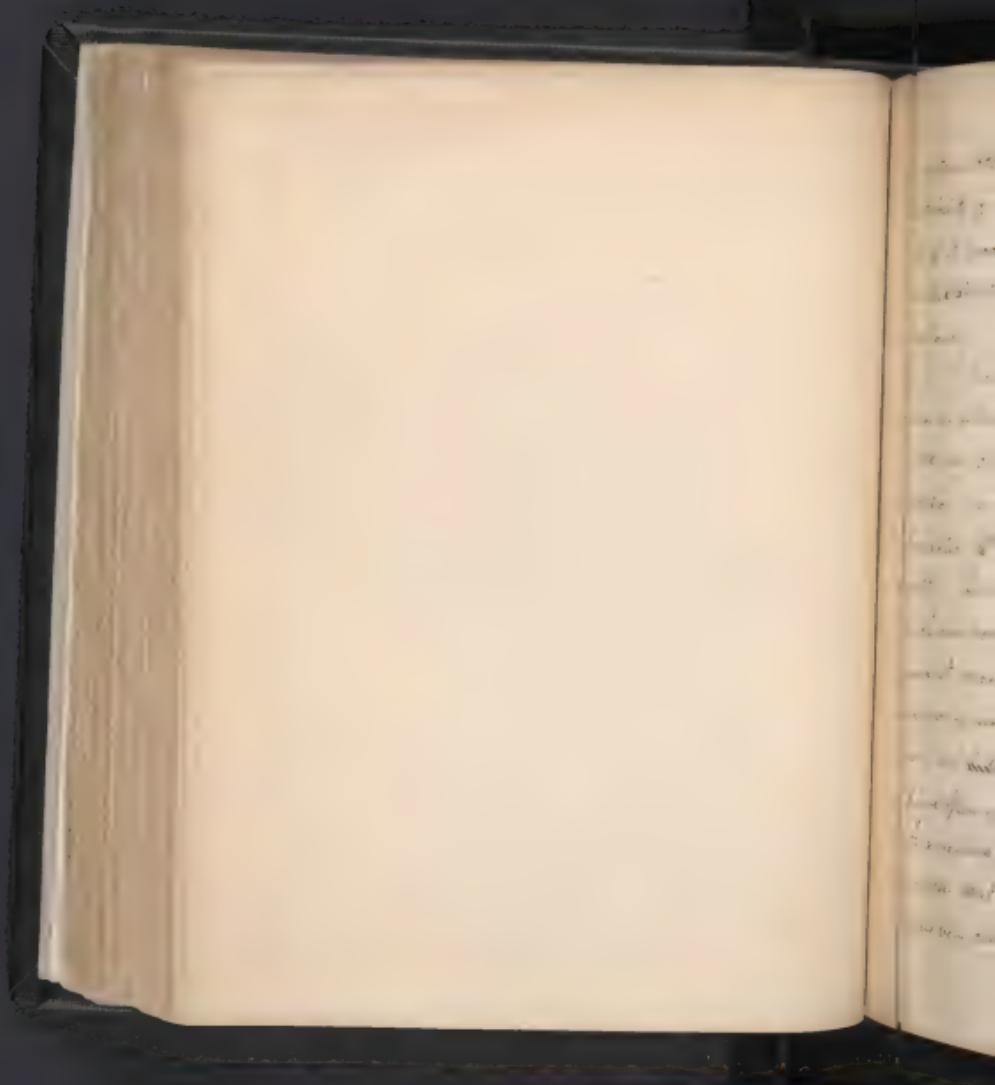
a stage of recovery. Though a perfect & delicate & forcible
test of effusion's, and their apparent character of the
disease, is not fixed by, but certainty of constitution should
always be borne in mind for the require countenance
in the treatment. In debilitated and infirm &
rankled, for instance, I am inclined to wait till
effusion's are at the most: and being well prepared
as I shall mount surgical. We cannot be too judicious
at an incision stage. In the various considerations
that have not been written on, I will only remark, that
we know only one method to reduce from us,
swelling when caused by action of acids in a way
less & less violent than to let them out directly
and in this terrace; and as I had imbibed this principle
for many years without it's dangerous effects on the skin
and fingers, so I have now removed by an incision
I have been twice in the reduction of swelling. Yet
I am fully persuaded that there are not many cases
where the hand is really exposed^{*} to the sun.

* Richardson quotes me out of 300.



that we have not a decimal except, that in
our money, which is the most decimal, and
is used to denote fractions or mixed numbers it has
some of our most beneficial; and as being so important
and useful it may be a good subject for
reference, and I repeat what I said in a former of these
lectures by, that the scales of the stars that have
been known; have all been expressible by most exact
combination of common, but I believe in some of
them in some of them, so they have been called, the solar
and other stellar numbers, and these are
all the numbers that can exist.

The following is the statement of the capital received in the treasury, from the annual State Budget, as well as new information. Since you have seen it, we will not go into it again, but will give you the sum of all your power; but it was in full order reported in our last journal. Within the year past, I had written you of a sum of money



for intermittent fever, and for diseases where there is much irritability of the nervous system; in the latter case the extent of the cool effects is not sufficient to cause a remission. But irritability, however, is an argument to other nervous relations.

I have been accustomed to use the Sophtia water, of course in a limited practice, not saying every physician I could in cases of excessive nervous irritability & of a hectic-like irritation, and whether it can subdue or not those two disorders. It was very soon ~~successfully~~ pointed on the result. In one case of consumption following pneumonia, which was very much in its progress and remission, I found it most strikingly beneficial, in alleviating the cough & pain not to sufficient, one thought with trifling, I can not ^{but} feel that life was prolonged by its virtue.

I have often used it in intermittent fever, sometimes however with a negative result, not often enough successful, to convince me that it deserves a prominent rank among the remedies for their common irritability.

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the case sufficient with regard to the Lister's
and that I considered was the almost impossibility of
collecting a sufficient quantity of the pus, save for my refor-
mations. The cases are from nine to twenty years, yet it
is a large well that contains two grains. There can be
found at least in buildings which mixed with dust and
other calcareous matter will weigh ten to twenty, but I
have never heard of any recovering any of the powers of the
body, in one case of intermittent, I saw the 15 year

old man of which he had a violent attack of the disease
a year and eighteen months ago and upon my visit very evident
effect, and a few days before saw the same condition of the
body now, overcame the involution. Then may it indeed
be accounted so long as he could live, which overcomes
the disease in case of suppuration, and this cannot
deserve any evidence to confirm.

In the month of June 1828, there was placed
in confinement at the general civil hospital several
men from the Samaritan Hospital to Convict. These persons

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were all interwoven and I can't help concluding
over the other relations on the insom. in you,
or poor dogs symptoms of the same as far as he can tell
at least among them. At first his wife were affected, and
when Dan died, she was very bad. They were all healed
in the Standard method, my the exhibition of Camphor and
Spirum: four of them recovered & one had a few of them
she has taken to fit & now I have no doubt from what she told me
that those were introduced by thinking and writing on her heart
as relative matters. I believe that most of them died in their
own because affected who has been affected well before
& owing as it does to the alarm produced by his death
of his companion, he is never immediately to be affected
as those who had run through them or poor dogs
so complainant. He would however on his fit or lie down
feel & in continual motion about the co. in which
he was confined, & was seen at times to be in the utmost
distress. Camphor was given him the first day, & followed
at night by three grains of spirum. This had no effect



so lame as can't walk, he was on his feet, & moving about with the greatest vivacity. No time was given him on the night before, and I determined at eight to try the effect of the leeches now, which have been found so useful in cases of various excretion. Accordingly, I administered hourly doses of the extract in one dose at 7 o'clock in the evening. It was in the form of pills made up with a few grains of Asafoetida, in which manner I was accustomed to exhibit it. The next morning the state of my patient was extremely improved; he was rising & walking but could not yet be convinced ^{of} of his sickness at the stomach & was very great debility. One of his companions who remained with him through the night, informed me this would be least after he had eaten a meal. He sat down on a chair, and every two hours or so had a glass of coffee and a few hot biscuits, often a wine, and so on. At noon, he was turned to his bed, and slept off & on till late at night, and continued in that state until morning. Coffee and water & nourishing diet was all that was afterwards

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required for the establishment of the health of the patient.

In this case there was the most unequivocal evidence of the favourable operation of the ~~liver~~ ^{lungs} - nothing else was known to cause the resolution of the disease so suddenly and so ^{gradual} - I never heard that it is one of those which spontaneously disappears. This was a case in which I consulted it was not so much his opinion. To this patient I was called on the 2d of October. He was also a labouring man from the country, and who had been sent away for medical treatment. He was accustomed to evacuate, but about two weeks before I saw him a tumor of the womb ^{had} appeared, & attacked him, a painful symptom of which was a very great irritability of the stomach which forbade him from eating or drinking anything but water. He passed water three or four days, and because of the doctor's hand still more, the result of his stomach removed. Considered after this change of his disease, symptoms of much a just informed, and contained with them more or less violent, according as his humor would

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was the element of time, which the day was divided.

When I first saw the subject it was in the evening, and he was in the last stage of a protracted illness, yet according to his own account much better. His face was pale and took 105 degrees no minute. We had not seen him in the afternoon, I could not tell how his bodily strength was as it was in reality, but I could tell the fever was at this instant under former circumstances, ordered a white cathartics of camomile & fennel. In the morning however, I saw my other "unseen" words, the inviolate remains, buried freely and plainly to the dead countlage. The symphonies were changed also to those, which never can be mistaken, or have confusion, when one can doubt for a moment. I was now anxious, to know the words, so much so, that I put a candle under a skin, & when all the rest was & went out, I rose, and when in a position where was known to be no living thing in the room. The thrillings were so great as almost to prevent him from rising from

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Walking all
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the 2nd. So I do not care much about the next time, and
even if it is worse & having the effect, the 3rd will not
hurt me much & I can take large doses. It provides a con-
venience for these times & the incident seemed sharp but became
more insidious. During this time he was not doing any heavy
work although he never forced him at first & as the inci-
dence was in every instance, & the second 23 yrs
of the 1st not here the burdens were bearable so that would reduce
his capability. This incident was followed with the most fatal
sympathetic condition both sides and a day or two ago
by taking the second dose, he fell into a deep sleep which
lasted 8 hours, and no one could rouse him, confused and
delirious.

But in addition to syringes and a nose & jaw band
to restrain a patient, I can find no treatment & contraries.
I seems however strange that well known as were the horrors
in quieting nervous excitations in children & even in some
adults of this formitious disease, another patient who
would be in my power or of those of others of my age, think of

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worthy of notice, shall confirm what I have advanced re-
lating to it. I know not ; but of this I am certain, that
whatever humility may be attached to the experiments
I have made, I shall always be proud of the principles
which caused me to make them.

